REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1-30 remain pending in the case. Claims 1-30 are rejected.

35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by PCT Published Patent Application WO 00/30293 by Johnson et al., hereinafter referred to as the "Johnson" reference. Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1-30 are not anticipated by Johnson in view of the following rationale.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 that recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

> An intelligent device for coupling an electronic device to a network comprising:
> a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to said network, said network having a head end;
> a second interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to a plurality of client devices such that said client devices are communicatively coupled to said network;
> means for processing and interpreting data coupled to said first interface; and
> fault detection means coupled to said means for processing and interpreting data, said fault detection means for performing fault detection in said network.

Independent Claims 11 and 21 recites similar limitations. Claims 2-10 that depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 12-20 that depend on independent Claim 11, and Claims 22-30 that depend on Claim 21 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Johnson and the claimed invention are very different. Applicants understand Johnson to teach a hub device for use in diagnosis and recovery in high performance digital loops (Abstract). In particular, Johnson teaches a hub device that includes interfaces for connecting the hub to stations, where one interface connects to a single station.

With reference to Figure 2 of Johnson, a hub device 102 having two ports (port 1 and port 2) is shown. Each port is connected to a station. Specifically, port 1 is connected to station S1 and port 2 is connected to station S2 (page 5, lines 14-18). Applicants understand Johnson to teach that a station is a standalone device. Applicants respectfully assert that a station is not a network. Moreover, hub device 102 includes diagnostic arrangement 106. In particular, diagnostic arrangement 106 is comprised within hub 102 (page 5, lines 25-26, and lines 39-40). Diagnostic arrangement 106 is operable to monitor data flow between stations S1 and S2. Applicants respectfully assert that system 100 includes three devices: hub 102, station S1 and station S2.

In contrast, embodiments of the claimed invention are directed towards an intelligent device including "a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to said network, said network having a head end" (emphasis added). In particular, the intelligent device is connected to a network. With reference to Figure 2 of the present invention, intelligent data concentrator 210 is communicatively coupled to network 240. As described in the accompanying description, network 240 is a central data network (LAN) or a voice network (page 11, line 15 through page 12, line 15). Similarly, with reference to Figure 5 of the present invention, first interface 504 of intelligent data concentrator 502 is communicatively coupled to network 508.

Applicants respectfully assert that Johnson in particular does not teach, disclose, or suggest an intelligent device including "a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to said network" (emphasis added), as claimed. In contrast, Johnson discloses an interface of a hub that is connected to a standalone device (a station).

Furthermore, with reference to Figure 4 of the present application, exemplary LAN 400 including several intelligent devices (intelligent devices 410, 415 and 420) communicatively coupled to head end 405. As described in the accompanying description, "[i]n one embodiment, head end 405 is a central control site that can access the intelligence of intelligent devices 410, 415, and 420. In another embodiment, head end 405 is a central data switch or hub"

(page 13, lines 13-15). In particular, head end 405 is a separate device from an intelligent device, as claimed.

Applicants respectfully assert that Johnson in particular does not teach, disclose, or suggest an intelligent device coupled to a network having a head end, as claimed (emphasis added). In contrast, Johnson discloses a hub including a diagnostic arrangement for monitoring data flow between different stations. The diagnostic arrangement is comprised within the hub, and is not comprised within a network.

Moreover, embodiments of the claimed invention are directed towards an intelligent device including a "second interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to a plurality of client devices" (emphasis added). With reference to Figure 5 of the present invention, a plurality of second interfaces 506a-d of intelligent data concentrator 502 are communicatively coupled to client devices 510a-d, respectively.

Applicants respectfully assert that Johnson in particular does not teach, disclose, or suggest an intelligent device including a second interface for communicative coupling to a plurality of client devices, as claimed. In contrast, Johnson discloses a second interface for connecting a hub to a single station. Specifically, each interface as taught in Johnson can be connected to a single device.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that nowhere does Johnson teach, disclose or suggest the claimed embodiments of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 11 and 21, and that these claims are thus in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the Johnson also does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 2-10 that depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 12-20 that depend from independent Claim 11, and Claims 22-30 that depend from independent Claim 21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-10, 12-20 and 22-30 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and are in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-30 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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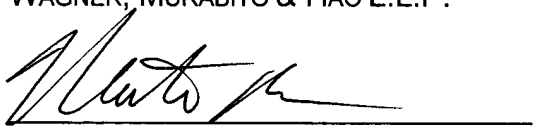

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